

motto is, "If I can help somebody along the way then my living will not have been in vain." Mr. Speaker, Brenda E. Perry-Felder has helped many and her life is not in vain. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING DAVID SULENTA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Sulenta for receiving the 2002 Fire Personnel of the Year Award from the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce.

David joined the Sanger Fire Department October 30, 1979. He began as a Firefighter/EMT and was promoted to Firefighter/Specialist soon after. Aside from Mr. Sulenta's contributions as an outstanding person, he has initiated many programs for the Sanger Fire Department. He brought about the routine testing of the self-contained breathing apparatus and he developed specifications for the new exhaust system which removes diesel exhaust fumes from the apparatus floor when fire engines drive out of the firehouse. Moreover, David was active in obtaining equipment for new fire engines. His achievements and contributions have not gone unrecognized by his peers. The officers of the department have selected him as "Employee of the Quarter" many times and this is the second time he has been honored as the Fire Personnel of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David Sulenta for his contributions to the Sanger Fire Department. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking David for his active involvement within the community and wishing him many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND F. BRANNON JACKSON IN CELEBRATION OF 36TH YEAR IN MINISTRY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and esteem that I wish to congratulate Reverend F. Brannon Jackson, who is celebrating his 36th year in the ministry. As the congregation at Calvary Institutional Church will attest, this praise is well deserved. Having overcome many obstacles in his life, Reverend Jackson serves as a role model for those wishing to start their life afresh and to have a positive influence over the lives of others.

To the benefit of Northwest Indiana, Reverend Jackson's arrival in Gary was, in his own words, "God's will." In 1946, after serving in the military, he planned to visit his cousins in the city while en route to San Francisco. Once here, this young man from Mobile, Alabama abandoned his plans to travel west, for he felt strangely drawn to this area, in spite of its differences from his native state.

Until he received the call to the ministry, Reverend Jackson openly admits his early years in Gary were spent enjoying the frivolities in life. At the age of 22, eager to set himself on the path of success, he offered his skills as a welder to Gebraltar Insurance Company; later he secured other positions, first at Reliable Cab, and then at the Budd Plant. It was while at the Budd Plant that he accepted his call to the ministry. Incidentally, this call came disguised as a church hymn: while playing poker with friends, Reverend Jackson became agitated when a man began walking room to room singing these songs. He followed the man, intending to ask him to quiet down, but instead discovered the verses sung stirred a passion within his soul that has yet to be quelled. Under the direction of Reverend L.J. Harris and the New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Jackson freed himself from the entanglements complicating his life and set his feet upon this path of righteousness.

Knowing his congregation would benefit from a minister well versed in spiritual, as well as secular affairs, Reverend Jackson began to challenge himself intellectually. He attended Chicago Baptist Institute and completed his GED, but his hunger for this intellectual development remained insatiable. Bolstered by his renewed faith in God and in himself, Reverend Jackson enrolled in Indiana Christian University, where he attained not only a bachelor's degree, but successfully earned a master's degree in religious arts.

Reverend Jackson's devotion to the Baptist Church is best reflected by the distinguished positions he has held and by the awards he has garnered during his 36 years in the ministry. He served as the president of the General Missionary Baptist state convention and the Indiana state convention. He lent his religious expertise to the National Baptist Convention, where he participated as an active board member. The culmination of his many years of dedicated service to the Baptist Church was achieved in 1998, when Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon honored him with the Sagamore of Wabash Award, the highest award the governor can bestow upon a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend F. Brannon Jackson as he observes his 36th year in the ministry. His commitment to his faith, as well as his selfless contributions to his congregation, is worthy of our commendation. Reverend Jackson is one of many extraordinary examples of leadership and integrity characteristic of the citizenry of Northwest Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 65, on approving the journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 66, H. Res. 368, Commending the Pentagon Renovation Program. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 67, H.R. 2509, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Security Printing Amendments Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call No. 68, H.R. 2804, the James R. Browning United States Courthouse Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE WATTS-COLEMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Catherine Watts-Coleman in recognition of her contribution to her family and her community.

Catherine, a native of North Carolina, relocated to Brooklyn with her parents and two siblings after receiving her high school diploma from the Morningside High School in Statesville, North Carolina. Upon arriving in Brooklyn, Catherine enrolled in the Central School for Practicing Nursing. After graduating, she went on to work at the Harlem Eye and Ear Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, and Sheephead Bay Nursing Home.

In 1950, Catherine married the late Bryant Coleman and was blessed with two wonderful children, Wayne and Lance. In rearing her children, she became more active in the Brooklyn community. Her motto is "parents must be actively involved in the social, educational, and spiritual life of their children in order for them to grow up and become responsible contributing members of society."

Catherine grew up in a caring, loving and spiritual household and she continues to always put God first in her life. Her daily meditation includes the 23rd and 121st Psalms, and the 14th Chapter of St. John. With that commitment to her community, she continues to be a tithing member of her childhood church, the Church of the Living God in Statesville, North Carolina, and alternates weekly worship between Nazarene Temple and Faith Holy Churches in Brooklyn.

Today, Catherine is a happy retiree who continues to reach out and touch the lives of others by happily volunteering her time. One of her greatest joys is talking about her six grandchildren, Zuri, Maurice, Larissa, Lauren, Lance Jr., and Latrice. She is also proud of her daughter-in-laws, nieces, and nephews who are an integral part of her life.

Mr. Speaker, Catherine Watts-Coleman has devoted her life to serving her family and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

HONORING DOUG PERRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Perry, principal of El Capitan Middle School, for receiving a nomination for the Educator of the Year Award from the California League of Middle Schools.